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ACUTE AND CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE MIDDLE EAR IN CHILDREN.

By WILLIAM SIMPSON, M.D., San José.

[Read before the State Homœopathic Medical Society.]

In selecting a subject for your consideration, Mr. President and gentlemen, I have tried to remember that we meet to help and be helped by each other's study and experience, and when I thought of my student days, and of the little time that was given to the lecturers on the eye and ear, and the large number of students who habitually avoided giving these organs even that little time; and when I remembered that, as a practitioner, and especially when as physician to a large charity, and seeing daily great numbers of children, the many I found suffering from acute or chronic ear troubles, and the prevalence of the fallacy that it was dangerous to interfere with an ear that was discharging, or to make any attempt to control the discharge, no matter how offensive or disgusting; a fallacy that I have learned during my short sojourn in California is not confined to the territory east of the coast range, but has followed immigration into this newer and more progressive and aggressive civilization. The subject I have chosen, "Acute and Chronic Inflammation of the Middle Ear in Children," seemed to me to be one well worth the attention of every member of this Society.

This ground has been thoroughly gone over again and again, and all I can hope to do is to refresh your memories and call your attention anew to this important subject; and in what I shall say I hope to benefit the general practitioner, rather than the specialist, for it is the general practitioner, and not the aurist, who is most frequently called upon to diagnose and treat diseases of the ear in children.

In searching authorities on this subject, I have been unable to find the record of a single case where injury has resulted from checking an otorrhœa too quickly, though undoubtedly damage might be done if, instead of depending on our internal remedies, with proper local applications as adjuvants, we followed the treatment of a certain quack mentioned by Roosa, who filled the meatus with plaster paris, thus effectually preventing any external discharge for a time at least.

A large majority of aurist's cases (Allen in his work on Aural Catarrh says five-sixths) are middle ear troubles. Eczema will probably change this proportion somewhat for general practitioners.

In view of the frequency of acute inflammation of the middle ear, it is important that all should have a clear understanding of the pathology of these cases, and be prepared to treat them promptly and intelligently, and thus save the little patient and his friends from the distressing and dangerous results of a chronic otorrhœa.

Otalgia proper is so rare as to be passed over with simple mention. It is probably never met with in childhood.

Common earache is almost invariably produced by acute inflammation of the middle ear. The most prominent symptom is pain, which is accompanied by restlessness, fever—sometimes delirium. The pain is usually intermittent, boring, cutting, throbbing, or lancinating in character, always excruciating, its severity being due to the rich nerve supply of the tympanic cavity, and to the fact that the periosteum is involved, a periostitis being, as every physician well knows, the most painful of all inflammations.

Owing to the intimate relation of the parts, and the accompanying brain symptoms, otitis in infants is frequently mistaken for meningeal trouble. The differential diagnosis can be made in most cases by remembering that, in otitis, the pain is intermittent. The child will suddenly cease screaming and smile, only to shriek again more violently than ever after a short interval. The moaning or sharp characteristic cry of the sufferer from a brain trouble has a very different sound. If still in doubt, press on the tragus and notice if the child winces. The use of hot water, as I shall suggest in speaking of treatment, has no little value in determining the diagnosis, as well as in relieving the pain.

An early diagnosis is important, as the results are much more favorable if the conditions are recognized and met promptly. If the physician is provided with an ear speculum he can use an ordinary hand mirror as a reflector, and illuminate the drum membrane very satisfactorily. In examining ears, daylight is much preferable to the best artificial light, as the latter changes the color of the parts to a greater or less degree, and will confuse one who is not an expert. Do not put the patient too near the window (six to ten feet away is better than two or three, owing to the greater dispersion of rays at the lesser distance), nor attempt to reflect the direct rays of the sun. Ordinary daylight will give abundant illumination, and the parts will retain their natural hue and appearance.

If seen early, the drum membrane will be reddened and thickened, sometimes, from its pinkish hue, so reflecting the light as to deceive the observer into the belief that he is looking into the tympanic cavity. After forty-eight hours, bulging is noticed, and this is soon followed by perforation, the discharge of serum or puss, and relief from pain. In mild cases this discharge, if not controlled, will continue for about a week, and, in the more severe cases, from two to three weeks, and no local treatment should be used except gentle cleansing with warm water, or carefully removing the secretion in sight with a little cotton wrapped around a cotton holder, which may be a match, splinter of wood or probe. This operation is frequently very grateful to the little patient, but must always be conducted with great care, and in a good light.

The appearance of the external auditory canal is at first unchanged; later, it will be dry, red and swollen, especially at its inner extremity.

Otitis is often sudden in its development, and may be due to colds, draughts of air, syphilis, the eruptive fevers, or the use by youths of the nasal douche. Irritation during dentition is also often a cause. The drum membrane of children is very vascular, and the eustachian tube short and wide; hence the greater frequency of otitis in childhood than in adult life.

Strumous children are very subject to otorrhœa, which, if unchecked, results in adhesions, by which the action of the stapedius and tensor tympani muscles are impeded, loss of the drum membrane, accumulation of deposits, acting as foreign bodies in the drum cavity, and, finally, caries and necrosis of portions of the temporal bones; and, in some well authenticated cases, and, doubtless, in many more where the cause was not determined, the suppuration has extended to the meninges, or the brain itself, producing a fatal result. We ought ever to remember the emphatic words of Wilde: "*So long as otorrhœa is present, we can never tell how, where or when it may end, or what it may lead to.*"

As we are considering the ear diseases of children, and the patients are, as a rule, too young to give any correct account of themselves, we must, of necessity, be guided in the selection of our remedies by *objective* rather than *subjective* symptoms, hence the great necessity for a clear idea of the pathological condition which produces certain symptoms, and the importance of a careful and correct diagnosis.

In suggesting remedies, I shall confine myself to those which have some marked characteristic, feeling sure that to *know* a few remedies well, will insure a greater measure of success than to have a mere smattering of many.

As a palliative, we have in hot water a remedy, simple, safe, always at hand, always valuable, frequently indispensable. When you find a child screaming with pain which cannot be located, with many symptoms of meningeal trouble, and the mother *sure* the disease has gone to the brain, even though it is teething, do not be too ready to follow the mother's lead, for she will often urge you to cut the baby's gums, (having inherited the idea that this is the panacea for all the ills of babyhood, when soothing syrup fails,) but use a warm douche, filling the ear, (the motion of the hands will usually give you a hint as to which one,) with hot water from a teaspoon, and covering the external ear with a warm flannel. In many cases this will give the little sufferer instant relief; but it must be frequently repeated until your internal remedy has removed the cause. If this fails, a prescription of Dr. Houghton, of New York, which is highly recommended, may be of service. It is prepared according to the following formula:

℞	Tinct. Belladon - - - - - -	ʒ ss.
	Glycerin - - - - - -	ʒ i.
	Aquae - - - - - - -	ʒ i.

M.

A few drops of this as warm as can be borne may be poured into the external ear, often enough to quiet the pain. Breathing into the ears, or blowing in the vapors of anodynes or tobacco smoke are popular and harmless domestic remedies. Harlem oil, ether, cologne, and other irritating substances are very dangerous, and mothers should be instructed to avoid them. Glycerine, oils, and molasses are inert but nasty, and should never be used. Poultices will be necessary in some cases, but only where suppuration cannot be avoided, as they greatly endanger the integrity of the drum membrane, and their long continued or careless use will surely lead to its destruction. Cold air always increases the pain, so the patient should be kept in a warm room, properly ventilated but free from draughts.

Even the physicians of other schools are beginning to recognize the usefulness of internal medication in this painful condition, which opium and morphia fail to relieve, and where leeches and blisters have long been boasted specifics. At the meeting of the American Otological Society, in July, 1881, Dr Sexton, of New York, announced that he was "opposed to the general and free incision of the drum head, and that he had abandoned the use of leeches, believing them to be unnecessary and often detrimental, and that he now relied on aconite and sulphide of calcium for subduing inflammatory and controlling neuralgic pains."

Aconite will be the remedy, perhaps, most frequently indicated in the first stage of the disease, and should be given where there is excessive sensitiveness of hearing and intolerance of every noise; tearing pain in the ears, especially the left, dryness and scraping in the throat, with dark redness of the soft palate and tonsils; thirst, hot dry skin; red cheeks.

Belladonna. Throbbing pain in the ears; worse towards night and when stooping; inflammation and swelling of the parotid glands; tonsils swollen, fauces dry and inflamed; heat and congestion of the head.

Hepar Sulphur. (Dr. Sexton's sulphide of calcium) Darting pain in the ears; worse at night, but continuing through the day; better by warmth and by wrapping the head up. Follows well after mercurius in many cases. This remedy is often useful in chronic cases or to hasten suppuration in acute cases which cannot be aborted. Dread of contact out of proportion to the severity of the disease is a key note for its use.

Merc. Sol. Tearing pains; worse at night in bed; perspiration which does not relieve; better during the day. This is a very valuable remedy in acute cases. It often relieves the pain and removes the other symptoms very quickly. In chronic cases it will be indicated by a red swollen and moist external canal with a thick yellow, green, or yellowish green discharge.

Pulsatilla. Acute, lancinating pain in the ears, worse at night, relieved during the day. Burt says, in catarrhal otitis with much pain, specific. In chronic cases, this remedy will relieve where there is a free discharge with the formation of crusts in the meatus. It is especially useful in the otitis and otorrhœa of children.

Sepia in its provings gives a good history of a chronic diffuse inflammation of the middle ear, with acute aggravations, itching in both weak and good ear, violent roaring, and an accumulation of purulent white cerumen.

Tellurium has a thin, watery discharge, very irritating, excoriating the skin, and smelling like fish brine.

No treatment of the ear will be wholly successful unless the throat symptoms are taken into account, carefully watched, and intelligently treated. After the acute stage is passed, inflation of the middle ear by Politzer's air bag every second or third day, will hasten a cure and often restore the hearing in a manner that, to the patient and his friends, seems marvelous.

In chronic otorrhœa where the discharge has continued for a long time, thorough cleansing twice a day and the use of a disinfecting and astringent lotion, composed of from two to five grains each of sulphate of zinc and carbolic acid to an ounce of water will remove the odor and help to bring the case to a speedy and successful close. Nothing will try more severely the patience of both patient and doctor than some of these cases of chronic otorrhœa, especially when accompanied by caries. Eternal vigilance and dogged persistence are necessary to secure success. It is not sufficient to tell the parent to cleanse the child's ear by syringing it with warm water. The doctor must do it himself, and watch the parent do it until he is satisfied that it is *done*, and the secretion entirely removed. Then warm a little of the astringent lotion, fill the external meatus, and allow it to remain for ten or fifteen minutes. If the otorrhœa is due to polypi, they should of course be removed. Fungous granulations or necrossed bone should be treated here just as they would be in any other locality. Whenever in the course of either acute or chronic otitis, the region of the mastoid becomes tender, begins to swell and becomes painful, the patient should be closely watched, and at the first sign of the formation of pus, Wilde's incision should at once be made, parallel with the auricle, about half an inch back of it *through* the periosteum clear down to the bone. The bleeding after this operation is sometimes considerable, but is readily controlled, and the relief which follows will amply compensate for the apparent severity of the measure. In abscess of the mastoid, the prognosis in children will usually be favorable. Children suffering from chronic ear troubles should always be well nourished, and placed under the very best of hygienic influences. Without attention to this, the best chosen remedies and most careful treatment will often result in failure.

HONESTY IN MEDICINE.

By SIDNEY WORTH, M.D.

As believers in the law of Homœopathy, we are assailed by the old bigots and fossils of the Allopathic School. Our honesty is questioned; our result in clinical medicine denied, and we are relegated to the great army of quacks. It is amusing at times to see these so-called leading physicians arrogating to themselves all the virtues that exist, and yet at times when we find them covertly making use of our discoveries and giving medicine in our doses, we are constrained to call their attention to what we call dishonesty in medicine. As Homœopaths we simply acknowledge "*similia similibus curantur*" as a law of cure, and when we say *that* we do not say there are no curative agents outside of the application of that law. A man is truly a dangerous sectarian who does not use any and all means he deems necessary to alleviate pain and cure disease. We say, show us a better guide in therapeutics, and we will accept it, or show us the falsity of our law. We are not influenced by the dogmatic utterances of any school or sect. Moral cowardice is the most pitiable form of cowardice, and when we see men waiting to find out what *this* society will say, or what that man will say before they act, we are compelled to despise them. To the student of medicine, this bigotry so prevalent, is the stumbling block in his way. He is hindered in his efforts, retarded in his desire to accomplish any real headway, by these so-called rules of conduct, creeds *et id omne genus*. We need more honesty in the profession, and give credit where credit is due. We need practical teachings. We want results that can be proved beyond peradventure, not forgetting the part played by the "*Vis Medicatrix Naturæ*." When human life is at stake, we must rise above petty prejudices. We need less theory and more practical knowledge; and when we find something worthy of our confidence, say so, and be honest about it. I apprehend that every medical man feels that no system of medicine is perfect. Our law of similars is a wonderful advance on the the old system, and yet we may have weak points in our armor. Is it not better for us to be awake with a healthy skepticism, teaching us to be ever on the alert to trace out what is false, and seeking the truth only, rather than to sink into mental helplessness and follow the routine practice.

To go into the camp of the enemy and find our ammunition, is always a pleasing duty, and we trust our Allopathic friends will consider well the following extracts that I take from the New York *Medical Journal* of February 10. The article is by A. A. Smith, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine at Bellevue College.

"Urticaria is often caused by the adminstration of full doses of balsam of copaiba in cases of urethritis, and it may seem strange to you when I make the statement, that a single drop of the same drug given every half hour will sometimes control urticaria. *I have no explanation to offer*, but I make the statement not alone upon the authority of others; I, myself, have often observed the efficacy of the treatment." "Half-drop doses of Fowler's solution of arsenic given every half hour for six or eight doses will often relieve the vomiting which occurs after a debauch, and is of decided benefit in sympathetic nausea."

"You will meet children of nervous excitable frame of mind, naturally of a sensitive, nervous temperament, disturbed by the least noise, unable to go to sleep before ten or eleven o'clock. An excellent effect will be produced by chamomilla in some of its forms, as the tincture administered in minim doses, every fifteen or twenty minutes. It is a better sedative in such cases than the hydrate of chloral, which is liable to affect the digestion." "You are aware that a teaspoonful of the syrup of ipecac is likely to produce emesis; but it is also a fact, regarding which I was at first quite skeptical, that a single drop of the wine of ipecac will often arrest obstinate vomiting. It will also relieve vomiting from pregnancy and subacute gastritis." "A grain of tartar emetic dissolved in *one quart* of water; teaspoonful doses of this every half hour will prove effectual for the relief of the wheezing and cough accompanying a slight bronchitis in children." He also finds "that cantharides in drop doses every hour, will relieve vesical catarrh; also that a single drop of the tincture of digitalis, given to a patient suffering from symptoms due to organic heart disease when digitalis is indicated, administered at intervals of an hour or half hour, according to the severity of the symptoms, will often give greater relief than *larger doses*, and without liability to *ill effects*. A gentleman in this city, of authority in the specialty of venereal diseases, says he has given greater relief in a short time, in cases of orchitis and epididymitis, by the administration of two-minim doses of the tincture of pulsatilla every hour, than by any other mode of treatment. I can testify to the great benefit derived from the drug administered in this manner in dysmenorrhœa, not of a membranous, obstructive, or neuralgic character. In cases of amenorrhœa not dependent upon anæmia, benefit may be derived from minim doses of the fluid extract of ergot, administered every half hour for five or six hours the day before the flow should begin, and again on the day on which it should occur. Contradictory as it may seem, when administered in the same manner, the fluid extract of ergot is of benefit in cases of excessive menstruation."

"Aconite is one of the drugs to which you will probably have occasion to resort frequently when you enter upon the active practice of medicine. It has for a long time been used in quite small doses, but not so frequently repeated as it might be with benefit. There are many cases of febrile movements, with dry, hot skin, a full bounding pulse, mucous membrane of the throat and nose probably dry—cases in which the febrile movement is not the commencement of any one of the continued fevers; the tincture of aconite, one-third to one-half a minim given every fifteen minutes, will be found of decided benefit. The tincture of aconite, administered in a similar manner, is also useful in cases of commencing so-called cold in the head. It is likewise useful in cardiac hypertrophy with palpitation, severe headache, and disturbances of the nervous system due to increased force of the heart-beat. Two minims of the tincture of hamamelis every half hour will often control hemorrhages. I was at first inclined to look upon this statement with a great deal of distrust, but I have since tried it in cases of hemorrhage from the nose, from the uterus, and in the hemorrhage from hemorrhoids, and have found it of great benefit."

Comment on the above extracts would seem unnecessary, but we would like to know if he is not practicing Homœopathy when he advises such treatment. Of course we do not expect them to be honest enough to give credit where credit is due, but why is not this bold medico read out of the school to which he belongs. We call the attention of the Professor of Therapeutics at the Cooper Medical College to this article, for he may perhaps learn something to his advantage, and in the future may give more information to his students, when, for instance, cantharides is under consideration. His remark that it is "useful only as an external application," may require some modification. Phillips and Ringer may also add to his stock of ideas.

There is another gentleman occupying the Chair of Gynecology, who, when he reads the article in question, will perhaps think he did not deal out exact justice when he arrogantly and superciliously drove away a young man who desired to obtain further instruction in operations pertaining to his specialty, simply because the young man believed in *our* law of cure.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMŒOPATHY.—No. II

By WILLIAM BOERICKE. M.D.

It was in 1810 that Hahnemann's *Organon of the Art of Healing* was first published. From that time dates the birth of Homœopathy. The nineteenth century, which has done so much for the benefit of mankind, has nothing to show so rich in the bestowal of blessings as Homœopathy. Her fruits are indeed for the healing of the nations. To-day, but seventy-three years after its introduction, notwithstanding the bitterest opposition, vilest misrepresentations, and unfairest ignoring of its just claims, what do we find? Instead of the decay of the system, so persistently prophesied by the old school, it displays more vigor than ever before. From its birth-place, in Germany, her disciples and representatives are now found in every country of the civilized world—her practitioners numbering thousands—her hospitals and infirmarie in every city dispensing blessings to the poor—her college[s]

ensuring a medical and scientific education to hundreds of young men every year—her literature growing and speaking in many languages, and establishing an enduring monument to the industry, accurate observation, and indefatigable zeal of her practitioners. These direct evidences of intrinsic life and power are visible to all; but the indirect influence it wielded and still wields as a reformatory power over the old school is even greater, though not so perceptible superficially. Compare the mode of practice of Allopathy of to-day with that of the time of Hahnemann. The great change is mainly due to Homœopathy. All the new positions of allopathic therapeutics are but feeble imitations of the homœopathic method; many so-called new remedies and new preparations have been used by homœopaths from the first, and their uses quite accurately described in any popular homœopathic manual of twenty-five years ago. This unprecedented growth of the new system would have been impossible, notwithstanding the inherent truth of its doctrines, had not Homœopathy from the first separated from the old school. This, though not of her own seeking, was necessitated by the hostility she encountered.

It was in entire accordance with the experience of great reformers generally that Hahnemann should have met with much injustice, misrepresentation, and insult. The profession has always been characterized by uniform persecution of new truths, and therefore it is nothing against Homœopathy that it is decried by Allopathy; for every improvement has been treated in the same way before public sentiment compelled its adoption.

Servetus taught, in the sixteenth century, that the blood circulated through the lungs. This brought upon him the persecution of the Church. He was accused of heresy, and was burned at the stake; his books being used as fuel to kindle the flames. Harvey, who, twenty-five years later, taught the general circulation of the blood through the whole body, barely escaped a similar fate. Pare, who introduced tying the arteries, in surgery, in place of searing them with a hot iron, drew down upon him the vengeance of the old school, and only escaped death at their hands by an adroit deception. Jenner announced, in 1775, his discovery of his prophylactic against small-pox, now in general use. The old school persecuted him with bitterness not surpassed by its former usual bigotry. It was an innovation; that was sufficient proof of its fallacy.

A hundred instances might be given to show that Allopathy has made the same blind and furious opposition to all and every improvement in the practice of medicine.

In vain Hahnemann cried to his contemporaries: "Refute these truths, if you can, by pointing out a still more efficacious, sure, and agreeable mode of treatment than mine, and do not combat them with mere words. But should experience show you as it has me, that mine is the best, then make use of it for the benefit—for the deliverance of humanity, and give God the glory." And again: "Repeat the experiments; repeat them carefully and accurately, and you will find the doctrine confirmed at every step."

Homœopathy does what no medical doctrine, no system of physic ever did, or could do—it *insists* upon being judged by the results. But instead of trying the experiments, studying the *Materia Medica*, and making accurate observations, the bulk of his professional brethren to this day have done nothing but abuse him and his work, without ever looking into his method; and even the best and most friendly have, knowingly or unknowingly, confounded the *discoveries* with their subjective explanations, and adhered to the latter—whereas only the first could and should be the objects of practical examination and criticism. Then, too, it ought not to detract from the greatness of Hahnemann's work that he was necessarily limited in many directions by his times. In like manner the glory of Hippocrates in having enunciated correct general principles in medicine is in no degree tarnished by the fact that his works contain many crude and erroneous notions, inseparable from the age in which he lived.

But this opposition of the old school had a wholesome effect on the little band of Hahnemann's disciples. It united them more firmly in their work of carrying out the principles of the Organon. They laid broad foundations for the science of Pharmacology by testing upon themselves and others the different drugs, thus giving to the world the *Materia Medica Pura* a monument of exact observation, patient research and heroic self-sacrifice. Nothing could dissuade them from the chosen path of their duty; true as a compass were they to the unalloyed principles of the new method of Therapeutics. So exact was the work of "provings" by Hahnemann and his immediate disciples, that his characterization of the action of drug. and their employment in disease remains the best to this days Pathological views may change from year to year, but these therapeutic principles of Hahnemann, based upon his drug-provings, remain as true to-day as when first announced. It was the recognition of Law and the success that always ensues upon our submission to the laws of nature and making these our guides that explain the rapidity with which the new principles were organized into a living and distinct school. *Similia Similibus Curatur* is the expression of a law of nature, and it is upon this recognition that the existence of Homœopathy depends, and until the old school is ready to make this acknowledgment there is sufficient reason and necessity for the separate existence of Homœopathy as a distinct school of medical philosophy and practice. Were Allopathy to-day to accept the whole of Homœopathy's Therapeutics, her clinical experience and her method of administering remedies—all of which she does indeed, to some extent, without, however, acknowledging the source—it would brilliantly illumine her text-books and greatly enrich her Therapeutics, yet without full acknowledgment of the law that guides us in the use of these remedies, she would possess no key to their right employment and would thus be compelled to use them simply as results of experience, and thus they would soon share the fate of all their lauded new remedies: be used empirically for a time, with varying results, be soon superceded by later arrivals to professional favor and then forgotten. The evil consequences of this lawlessness of the old school is seen in the doleful condition of her treatment of disease. Look at Ziemssen, in his sixteen volumes on the Practice of Medicine. Remember that work represents the zenith of modern German medical science. What do we find? The grossest materialism, faithlessness in the efficacy of medicine, mere surmise, no system, no law. This poverty is rendered more apparent by the fullness of the pathology, the accuracy of the diagnosis, the richness of other departments.

Thus, as long as the principles of the Organon are not accepted and all that our teachers have labored for, still waiting for recognition and acceptance, we cannot give up our distinctive existence as a school or drop the name of Homœopathy. Truth is mighty and it will prevail, but it will do so only when held worthily and when it is incorporated in life. The truths of Hahnemann must be incorporated in the practical life of physicians, must be our guide at the bedside, the pivot around which all other medical sciences will arrange themselves, which they will illustrate, to which they will bear tribute, and which, in turn, will put these in orderly relation to each other.

We find Homœopathy most prosperous and popular in those countries where it has most distinctly occupied a separate existence. Here in the United States it has taken deepest hold, and all its doctrines are carried out to their fullest extent. In England, where constant efforts have been made by a large part of her practitioners to drop the distinctiveness of the school, partial success has been attained, but only at the expense of much that pure Hahnemannism considers essential; and this, too, has been stigmatized as Hahnemann's senility. Germany, likewise, not having any opportunities for equipment of homœopathic physicians, suffers in consequence. Efforts have indeed been made for teaching Homœopathy at the universities; but it (writes a recent German writer) may be asked whether the lectures delivered at these institutions have furthered the cause of Hahnemannism, or have spread the knowledge of its principles among the old school. Such men as Moritz Müller, at Leipsic; Altschul, at Prag; Büchner, at Munich; Bakody and Hausmann, at Pesth,—surely, none could be found richer in knowledge and practical experience—men in every respect the peers of the best in the old school. Yet, have their efforts been crowned with success? In our own country two State universities have appointed chairs for the teaching of Homœopathy, but here, too, there is much room to doubt the usefulness of attempting in that way to spread a knowledge of our principles. The fact is, that with the appointment of a chair the State thinks it has done its duty in the matter, and leaves to the incumbent to establish his claims and protect them, but almost insuperable difficulties are met with by coming in conflict with the established machinery

of the old school, her intense prejudices and jealousies increased by the consciousness of being the self styled "regular school." So, no matter how great talent we put forward as our representatives, and we have been fortunate in securing the best, yet their progress is hampered or annulled by the brute superiority of numbers and influence, they controlling the hospitals, and all the paraphernalia for clinical instruction. What is the remedy for this state of affairs? Not in pursuing methods in which we have failed, but rather in extending and perfecting those that have given us fair encouragement and to which we owe all our present status. And we find that wherever Homœopathy has been allowed to develop itself most distinctly, where its principles have been held unalloyed, where, in short, Homœopathy has been taught and practiced *as Homœopathy*, there it has enjoyed life and strength and has achieved her legitimate results of growth and acceptance by the people. It seems fair to conclude, therefore, as a proposition, based upon experience, that our mission lies in the direction of holding our principles in greater purity and perfecting our separate institutions, making these as complete in teaching all the collateral branches of medical science, as in their teaching of Homœopathy, and thus ensuring a complete medical education. But it is essential for us to hold the principles loyally and disinterestedly. Our best examples are Hahnemann and the early disciples. The same mental attitude and discipline that characterised them must be characteristic of us if we wish to be prosperous in the same direction, and above all we must keep our minds free from mere blind imitation, without rational examination, even of Hahnemann's teachings For blind imitation merely enthralls. The true aim is to keep our minds free, bathed by a constant stream of fresh knowledge in all the fields of human investigation. The law of cure can only be established more firmly by every increase in our medical and scientific knowledge, i e, its reign becomes more evident and intelligible. The spirit that has been advocated by some zealots in our school to yield blind and implicit obedience to the dictum of Hahnemann, simply because Hahnemann taught it, would be as destructive of our cause as that other spirit, so plausible in its appeal to our liberality—yet containing within it our own death-warrant—the spirit that seeks to incorporate Homœopathy with the Therapeutics of the old school before the latter is willing to make the slightest acknowledgment of the universal reign of our law.

Another deplorable effect of grafting Homœopathy upon the old school, before this is ready for it, is the perversion of its first rule of practice, viz: to prescribe according to the totality of symptoms. The temptation to use our drugs according to clinical experience merely, instead of arriving at their use by the diligent study of the *Materia Medica*, and individualizing each case of sickness, is very great, and against which we cannot guard sufficiently. This is really an alarming error, and when yielded to, one that contains within it the germs of certain ruin. It is the more insidious because externally it looks like a genuine jewel, and indeed in the hands of the true Homœopath it is one, as it illustrates and strengthens our *Materia Medica* and proves its correctness, but separated from strict individualization and the study of the *Materia Medica*, and used as the sole guide at the bedside, it is refined Allopathy —dethroning the law—guided, as it is, merely by "experience," with the consequent instability and uncertainty.

In view of the great truths conferred on Homœopathy, which it is her mission to hold in their purity and entirety, even the law of cure, with its dependent principles, recognizing it to be her mission, moreover, to hold these in trust for the benefit of mankind, and also for the old school of medicine, until such time as she will be enabled to see and willing to accept this great law as the rule for her guidance in Therapeutics, and recognizing the great benefits Homœopathy has already conferred on the millions to whom she has given health and life, it becomes us now, as the morning dawn gives way to the full daylight of science in medicine, to remain faithful to our principles, to avow them openly, to rejoice in the name of Homœopathy, to do our share in perfecting and extending the great art and science. And the more we do this, the readier will we be to take part in the general advance of medicine, aid in its gradual disfranchisement from mere authority, recognizing the reign of law instead, and we will also grow in gratitude and admiration for the splendid genius and stupendous labors of the man who first proclaimed our law of cure, the great, immortal Hahnemann.

IS ALLOPATHY A "REGULAR AND SCIENTIFIC SYSTEM?" AND IS HOMŒOPATHY "A FRAUD AND A HUMBUG?"

By JOHN F. GEARY, M.D.

[*Continued from page* 2, *January Number*, 1883.]

In tracing the foundations on which so-called "Regular Medical Science" has been built, it was my intention to commence with the early English physicians, and coming down with them step by step to our own times, and quoting from none but the leading men and recognized authorities of their respective periods, to rest my case on what they have said and done. But I have concluded to depart from this plan, so far as to draw for a few examples on an earlier race of great men: indeed, the greatest of the Greek and Roman doctors, from whom our forefathers derived their medical learning in common with much more of their intellectual riches. This will serve, by way of contrast, to illustrate the scientific bases on which they built, and how far our own men of science had improved on them down to the period when the great heresy called Homœopathy was promulgated. I quote from an author that has been said "to have stood the test of experience, the first parent of truth, for upwards of sixteen hundred years," and whose works are standard text-books in the original Latin in all English medical schools and colleges today. For they are so far behind ourselves and so slow in their progress as to make a knowledge of Latin, at least, an indispensable necessity for a student of medicine. The author I refer to is AURELIUS CORNELIUS CELSUS. I cite from the London Edition of 1831, published by E. Cox, St. Thomas street, Southwark. On pages 29, 30, 31, we are recommended to use as "plasters," or poultices, to induce suppuration, the following—and he tells us that this one "was prepared by the Greeks:" "Equal portions of wax, pitch, resin, and beef, or veal suet." Another is composed of "copper scales, soot of frankincense, ammoniacum, liquid turpentine, resin, beef suet, vinegar, and oil." A third is "for fracture of the cranium," and is ascribed to Judæas;" it consists of "salt, the scales of red copper, calcined copper, gum ammoniacum, soot of frankincense, dry resin, colophonian resin, wax, veal suet, a glassful and a half of vinegar, and a little less than a glassful of oil." Surely any fracture of the skull must be reduced to propriety by this "plaster," and every condition of "regular" surgery fulfilled. And "the best for drawing," is another borrowed also from the Greeks—"composed of myrrh, saffron, iris, bee-bread, bdellium, the tops of pomegranates, scessile and round alum, misy, chalcitis, a boiled solution of sulphate of copper, panaces, sal-amonica, viscum, aristolochy, scales of copper, turpentine, resin, wax, and beef or goat's suet." Certainly a poultice composed of all these might "draw" the head off the body of Hercules himself! But it will be said these were set aside by modern doctors and perished with their authors. Not so fast, wait till we come down to the moderns and see what they have left us as their rich legacy in the same line of treatment:

"When an acute or pestilestial fever has reached its highest increment preceded by great thirst, cold water must be given copiously, that he may drink even beyond satiety, but not before the fourth day; and when his stomach is replete beyond measure, and sufficiently cooled, he ought to vomit!" There can be very little doubt of the necessity of vomiting in such cases; and if the fever be not "removed" by this *medication* and its effects, certainly the patient must. But the renowned Dr. Sangrado has said all that needs be said on this noted step towards scientific perfection in medicine, and to much better purpose than I can. So I beg to refer my readers to Gil Blas for a brief and pointed description of "medical science" before and during the days of Le Sage. But to do Celsus justice, his treatment of all forms of fever consists more in giving food and drink, oil rubbing and such other expectant methods as were known in his day, than in the administration of crude drugs; the virtues of which seemed to have been either unknown to him, or disregarded as worthless. They were reserved for later times, when the interests of the apothecary and the doctor became blended at the bedside of the sick; and "science" had found a shorter way to terminate cases than the cold water diet and rubbing of Celsus and his followers.

It would be both tedious and uninteresting to the general reader to pursue this part of the subject any further, and as the work of Celsus furnishes us with the connecting link between the ancients and the moderns, we may easily and naturally pass from the former to the latter. The early English doctor is the legitimate offspring of his Egyptian, Greek and Roman ancestors, and from them, it will be seen, he had drawn his early inspiration, and his rich inheritance of "scientific medical" wealth.

If "regular medical practice" is the progressive, scientific evolution from the studies, experiences and original abilities of the great men of every age since the first school was established, surely there is no more fair or just method of proving the fact than the one now taken; and we see how much the last and the best of the Roman doctors drew from their predecessors of other nations, as well as from their own national ancestors; and, as before intimated and well known to all, our early English medical men followed closely in their footsteps, how closely let the following extracts show. *As we deal solely with medicines and their uses*, as the only *casus belli*, I will begin by quoting Dr. William Bulleyn's "Rules for the Apothecary," as to his conduct, care and learning in the pursuit of his calling, and in giving medicine the doctor could not prescribe otherwise than as the apothecary prepared.

"The Apoticarye.

"1. Must fyrst serve God, foresee the end, be clenly, pity the poore.

"2. Must not be suborned for money to hurt mankynde.

"3. His place of dwelling and shop to be clenly, to please the sences withal.

"4. His garden must be at hand, with plenty of herbes, seedes and rootes.

"5. To sew, set, plant, gather, preserve and kepe them in due tyme.

"6. To read Dioscoredes, to know ye natures of plants and herbes.

"7. To invent medicines, to chose by coloure, tast, odour, figures, &c.

"8. To have his morters, stilles, pottes, filters, glasses, boxes, cleane and sweete.

"9. To have charcoles at hand, to make decoctions, syrups, &c.

"10. To kepe his cleane ware close, and cast away the baggage.

"11. To have two places in his shop—one most clean for the physick, and a baser place for the chirugerie stuff.

"12. That he neither increase nor diminish his physician's bill (his prescription), and kepe it for his own discharge.

"13. That he neither buy nor sel rotten drugges.

"14. That he peruse often his wares, that they corrupt not.

"15. That he put not in *quid pro quo* without advysement (that is, use one ingredient instead of another in a prescription).

"16. That he may open well a vein for to helpe pleuresy.

"17. That he meddle only in his vocation.

"18. That he delyte to rede Nicolaus Myrepsus, Valerius Cordus, Johannes Placaton, the Lubik, &c.

"19. That he do remember his office is only to be ye physician's cooke.

"20. That he use true measure and weight.

"21. To remember his end, and the judgement of God; and thus do I commend him to God, if he be not covetous or crafty, seeking his own lucre before other men's help, succour and comfort."

These rules throw a flood of light on the state of "regular medicine" in their author's time, of whom I shall have more to say anon. But I must now ask the reader's forbearance till the next number of this journal shall appear.

(*To be continued.*]

Ferrum Phosph.

Is a most powerful vein medicine, although its action on the arteries is its prime sphere. It has cured a small aneurism in my hands, and a great indication for it is *throbbing*. It is also a beautiful hypnotic, but those who usually sleep well are often kept awake by it. *Ferrum Phosph.* acts brilliantly in old people (*Fluor. Acid* in young).

Some Indications for a Few Lung Remedies.

By R. G. Gregg, M.D.

Arsenic.—Catarrhal aggravation from 5 to 6 P. M.; cough worse after midnight. Cough brought on or greatly aggravated in the evening on lying down, and in the morning on rising, both occurring every night and morning; great aggravation of cough or great dyspnœa, or both, on lying down, day or night; has to be bolstered up to a half or full sitting posture; rapid emaciation, although eating well or fairly; very acute or stitching pain in apex of right lung.

Belladonna.—One of its most prominent indications in the beginning of chronic lung diseases is a *hollow* cough, more hollow and different from that of croup; also a barking and harsh cough, something like croup; cough arising a little before or precisely at midnight [Arg. n]; violent stitching pains from the right side of the abdomen upward through the right lung to mamma-point of right shoulder and inner border of right scapula; also chronic nasal or bronchial fluent catarrh, attended with rattling respiration in nervous or mentally active subjects.

Calcarea.—Frequently indicated in tall, slender, and rapidly growing youth (more frequently than Phosph). The fact that the patient having grown rapidly in youth and possessing a large frame, may often be the guide for the remedy in middle life or later.

Crocus—Asthmatic or wheezy cough, attended by frothy expectoration containing threads of translucent, whitish, or yellowish mucus, of the size of coarse spool cotton, or fine twine, and aggravation of many or all its symptoms (especially if such threads are expectorated), by hot weather, a warm room, lying down.

Mercurius.—One of the greatest of all the characteristics of this remedy in lung diseases is great aggravation from, or utter impossibility of lying upon the *right* side. A knowledge of this one symptom of Mercur. has enabled us to cure with it more cases of serious lung diseases than through all its other indications combined. Also, *fugitive pains*, now here, now there, or anywhere, and changing place every hour, few hours, or day or two. On this symptom we have also cured many serious cases of acute and chronic diseases with Mercur.; five times as many, at least, as from prescribing Pulsatilla on the same symptom. But they will seldom or never cure severe cases having either of these symptoms, if the patients are victims to that terrible curse, namely, *mercurial dentistry;* that is, wearing red rubber dental plates, or having amalgam fillings in teeth, unless they first have them removed.

Nux Vom.—No remedy surpasses and few equal it for *violent racking* paroxysms of cough, whether acute or chronic, and with or without expectoration; aggravation *after eating*, and in the morning or forenoon. Also, when cough is attended by severe headache, pain or bruised sensation in stomach, hypochondria, or bowels, and a dull, sub-acute soreness of the abdomen under pressure.

Phosphorus—One of its greatest characteristics is very fœtid stools and flatus, the odor being exactly like lime that has been used at gas-works to desulphurize the gas. For fifteen years and more we have never failed to greatly relieve suffering, even in incurable chronic lung diseases, with Phosphor, when this symptom was present, and have never failed to speedily cure any case of acute diarrhœa having this symptom, with a single dose of Phosph. in a high potency. Another marked symptom of Phosphor. is acute pains in chest, especially right side, which are greatly aggravated by even light pressure in the inter-costal spaces, and in that case, aggravation from lying on the right side; whereas, aggravation from lying on the left side is, in the generality of lung diseases, one of the greatest characteristics of Phosphorus.

Sepia has, for its most prominent indication, excessively fetid sputa. It is as important to avoid the too frequent repetition of doses as to select the right remedy.—*Hom. Physician.*

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The question as to the best method of advancing the interests of Homœopathy on this coast should meet with our earnest consideration. The principal cause of our slow growth, compared with that of our eastern brethren, is our total lack of *esprit de corps*. Not entirely are we to blame for this want, for it is a characteristic of our community generally, and every interest suffers in consequence. But we have all been guilty in a large degree of milking the good-natured cow of Homœopathy, as Dr. Hering used to say, without doing our share to feed her. Let us now endeavor to be active in this direction, also, and the grateful creature will not be remiss to reward us accordingly. Let us cultivate a more fraternal feeling, organize local medical clubs and societies, exchange with each other the experiences of our daily work, interest ourselves in the institutions that we have already, and that so greatly need every help, and endeavor to get recognition for ourselves as a school in our public institutions. To popularize Homœopathy, is well enough; our books and papers, as well as the practice of every representative of our school, are doing that; but we need to grow strong by cultivating in ourselves willingness to co-operate. Each one of us can do something for which he is especially fitted—he can do that better than any one else, and we as a body fail to develop properly if he withholds his talent. We have a glorious cause, and we ourselves are to blame if we do not prove ourselves worthy of our trust.

We regret to record the death of Dr. McClatchey, of Philadelphia. As Professor of Practice he was probably the most popular lecturer at the Hahnemann College. His genial nature and sympathy for the students gained for him their warmest appreciation and enthusiastic adherence. He was a very active and able man. Besides his professorship, he was for many years editor of the *Hahnemann Monthly*, and a large contributor to local medical societies. He was instrumental in forming the Hahnemann Club of Philadelphia, of which he was president since its formation, and which has done such excellent work for the cause of Homœopathy. The whole school loses in Dr. McClatchey an earnest and able champion and excellent practitioner.

The publishers of the *U. S. Medical Investigator* say in one of their late numbers that they are urged to publish a quarterly, and to re-establish the old *Medical and Surgical Journal*. We hope not; for it does seem superfluous in view of the existence of the venerable *North American Journal of Homœopathy*. Why not join forces with Dr. Lilienthal, and help to make this more perfect in every department? The same number of our contemporary shows an anxiety for the welfare of our coast which we must appreciate. It says that "a California Homœopathic College would seem a necessity, and could do well. A crop of twenty graduates annually could find openings in new towns on the coast for many years to come. The *clinical facilities* (!) afforded by the S. F. Homœopathic Hospital and Dispensary equal what is utilized in some colleges in the east." Well, we believe it, judging from some of the resultant article that is turned out. Hereafter the *Investigator* will be published weekly, and we hope it will be successful in its new form.

HOMŒOPATHY PRACTICALLY ILLUSTRATED.

For this department, we desire reports of cases from physicians. In order to illustrate clinically our Materia Medica, and add to our knowledge of remedies, we prefer such cases where but one remedy is used at a time. Alternation of remedies may be useful enough, but it fails to advance our ideas of specific drug action.

Sick Headache—Kali Bich.

By Dr. Wall.

Woman; 27 years. "I am going to be sick for three days with one of my headaches; they always last that long." Pain is *supra-orbital, right* side, and can be covered by the tip of the finger. "There is an *haze before my eyes*, and I shall be nearly blind; I have some *nausea*, and it will result in vomiting." Gave *Kali Bich* 200, in water, every two hours. First dose was the only one needed.

Eneuresis Cured With Plantago.

By Dr. E. F. Grant, Lodi.

A. B——, a bright active boy, eight years of age, troubled all his life with eneuriesis. Parents had to keep him from school, and was obliged to sleep on rubber blanket. Urine apparently normal, both in quantity and quality. Had been treated by Allopathic and Eccectic physicians without benefit. Prescribed *Plantago Major*, 30x, dose every night. Marked improvement within one week, and in thirty days was entirely relieved. During the following three months he took two doses of the same upon a reappearance of the symptoms. Since then has taken no medicine, and over nine months have passed. I consider him cured.

Chilblains Cured With Agaricus Musc.

By Dr. B. F. Wall, Berkeley.

Woman; age 35. Has been suffering with chilblains on feet five days; has been able to get no relief, and no sleep. All the toes, and as far up as the instep, have a dark *purplish-red* appearance. Feet feel as though *ten thousand hot needles* were *burning* her. Patient is very *loquacious, sighs continually*, and is *very nervous*.

Agar. Musc. 200, in water every two hours. Felt better before second dose; slept all night and had nothing of which to complain the next day.

Chronic Diarrhœa Cured by Podophyllum.

By J. C. Burnett, M.D.

I always like to come across bad cases of chronic diarrhœa in practice, because they afford such irrefragable proof of the homœopathic law. On June 1st a middle-aged man came to me, complaining of chronic diarrhœa. It had lasted about a year, and, of course, the patient had a very poor appearance; two to six loose stools daily. The diarrhœa was *hepatic*, stools very *bilious* and *liquid*, they *squirted out* of the rectum; it was worse in cold weather, and the complaint began with pains and discomfort in the right hypochondrium. *Podophyllum* 6; five drops in water twice a day, cured, and patient gained flesh.

PERSONAL ITEMS AND NOTES.

Our esteemed friend, Dr. G. W. Barnes, is the Health Officer of his town—San Diego.

The *British Journal of Homœopathy* enters with the present year upon the forty-first year of its existence. It is the oldest English medical quarterly. Its editors, Drs. Dudgeon and Hughes are probably the ablest men for that position to be found in England.

French physicians use with great success the *arseniate of antimony* in organic diseases of the heart and lungs. Accordingly, the various triturations and dilutions have been added to the stock of Boericke & Schreck's pharmacy.

The annual meeting of the "California State Homœopathic Medical Society" will be held in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association Building, 234 Sutter street (above the Homœopathic Pharmacy), Wednesday, May 9, 1883, at 8 o'clock P. M. The necessity for a full meeting must be apparent to all. Each one, therefore, is urged to be present, prepared to make the meeting both pleasant and profitable. An important change in the Constitution is proposed.

Dr. Cole has removed from Denver and settled in San Francisco, No. 835 Bush street.

The Homœopathic community around Oroville will be glad to know that Dr. J. A. D. Adams has settled there, and will worthily represent our school.

Dr. R. L. Hill, late of Oakland, has located at Pasadena, Los Angeles Co., Cal.

Dr. Frank H. Thomas has located at 404 Post street, above Powell.

The publishers of the California Homœopath are entirely out of No. 1. If any one has that number and does not care to keep it, he will confer a great favor by mailing it to the Pharmacy, 234 Sutter street, San Francisco.

We regret to learn that Dr. J. M. Banks, of Colusa died Feb. 23, of Consumption. Dr. Banks was a convert from the old school and became an able representative of new. Colusa is a good field for a Homœopath.

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OBITUARY NOTICE.

The death of Dr. O. S. Cummings, late of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, takes from the ranks of Homœopathy a bright and useful life. The tidings of his death were startling to his San Francisco friends, who a few months ago gave him cordial greeting on his way to the East, and the sad news will still more startle his many friends and patients in Honolulu, where for the past nine years he has been the leading representative of our school, and where he has gained a reputation that will long be remembed with respect and affection by those whose privilege it was to know him as an honorable, conscientious man—a skillful and intelligent physician, and a sincere, true friend. Dr. Cummings, while naturally reticent or retiring in disposition, possessed a wide range of valuable knowledge. He had received a liberal education at Dartmouth College, and as a medical practitioner he stood in the very foremost rank. He was an earnest student, and always based his opinions and conclusions upon careful and thorough investigation; and as a diagnostician his skill was recognized by many who were indebted to him for the restoration and preservation of their health. He was too busy as a practitioner to be able to devote much time to literary work, although from time to time he made some valuable contributions to current medical magazine literature, among which were some very interesting papers published in the *North-American Journal of Homœopathy*, upon the subject of "Leprosy Among the Hawaiians;" a very able resumé upon the histology, characteristics and treatment of that mysterious and loathsome affliction. He had been greatly overworked during his long residence in Honolulu, and at the time of his late visit to San Francisco he was en route to the East for the benefit of change and rest, which he greatly needed, and which he hoped to find in the bracing air of his native State, New Hampshire. But the extreme contrast of climate proved injurious to his already exhausted vitality, and he was obliged to seek a milder temperature—too late, however, to avert the fate that came swiftly and relentlessly upon him, and cut him down in the prime of his life and usefulness—at the age of 36 years. Dr. Cummings' death will be deeply regretted by all whose good fortune it was to know him. He has left a widow and three children, to whom we extend our warmest sympathy in this their dark hour of bereavement. C.

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Dr. Burnett's Essays. Hahnemann; Gold; Salt; Cataract; Diseases of Veins; etc. $2.50.

Brigham. Phthisis Pulmonalis, or Tubercular Consumption. $2.00.

American Homœopathic Pharmacopœia. $3.50.

Worcester on Insanity. $3.50,

Hahnemann's Materia Medica Pura. Two volumes; 1423 pp; half morocco. $12.00.

R. W. Nelson. A Clinical Assistant. $1.00.

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